

**LATE**  
**Testimony**

**hscadv**  
**HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Jo Jordan, Vice-Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Veronika Geronimo, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: HB2280 – Comments only

Hearing Date and Time: Monday, February 6, 2012 @ 11:15am

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Good morning Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Jordan, and members of House Committee on Human Services. The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers, our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

Domestic violence survivors need access to safe, adequate, and affordable housing in order to gain independence and permanently end the cycle of violence. HB2280 however, may have very dangerous unintended consequences for the very victims the bill is intended to help.

Firstly, the bill assumes the landlord will have the ability to discern true victims. Without the proper safeguards in place, batterers may use a restraining order as evidence to a landlord that he and not the true victim should be permitted to retain possession of the residence to the exclusion of the victim.

The bill also requires documentation from a health care provider or licensed clinical social worker. Survivors' safety may not necessarily involve healthcare, nor may survivors necessarily seek out healthcare and social worker professionals, but they are, nonetheless, still victims of abuse.

We believe the bill, as currently drafted, will have serious and grave consequences for victims, and respectfully request that these concerns be addressed. Thank you for your consideration.

# LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS/HSJ 2/6/2012 11:15:00 AM HB2280

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Dara Carlin, M.A.

Organization: Individual

E-mail: [breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com](mailto:breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com) Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Good Morning Representatives ~

As you may know, housing is a major issue for many in Hawaii, but it is far more complicated if you're a victim of domestic violence trying to discharge from the shelter and attempting to find a safe home for yourself and your children.

Part of Safety Planning is to inform those around you about your status as a DV victim; we ask victims to alert their employers, daycare providers, schools the children attend AND if you're in a rental situation, your landlord. While everyone says they're against domestic violence, often times that sentiment does not translate into commitment or action once they're faced with the situation.

I cannot begin to tell you the literal and figurative "welcome mats" that are pulled out from beneath DV victims' feet when their identity as a victim is exposed.

In concurrence with Safety Planning or to stress the desperation of their plights, victims may disclose that they are such when applying for rental housing, but instead of this disclosure resulting with a lease and keys the result is often an apology followed by "Oh, that apartment just got taken an hour ago" or "that place won't be ready for at least another month" despite the "Immediate Vacancy" sign.

This may be a relatively easy declination for others to handle, but for a victim struggling to make it on her own the first thoughts are "I was stupid for leaving in the first place. He said I'm nothing without him - that I can't do anything right and he was right." (Then folks are either scratching their heads in disbelief or are "disgusted in her weakness" when she returns to him.)

Many victims have children in tow and end up forced with the choice of homelessness or returning to their abusers - this measure would be one step towards taking that choice away - please help to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012

TO: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

CHAIR MIZUNO AND MEMBERS, MY NAME IS SONIA SNOW. I AM  
SUBMITTING TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO.  
2280 – RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT MY TESTIMONY IN  
STRONG SUPPORT. I URGE YOU ALL TO PASS THIS BILL.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012

TO: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

CHAIR MIZUNO AND MEMBERS, MY NAME IS VIVIAN SAMPSON. I AM  
SUBMITTING TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO.  
2280 – RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT MY TESTIMONY IN  
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012

TO: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

CHAIR MIZUNO AND MEMBERS, MY NAME IS JADE KEALANI SNOW. I  
AM SUBMITTING TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT** OF HOUSE BILL NO.  
2280 – RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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